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the number of marriages of foreigners with each other, and extremely insignificant is the number of marriages between Brazilians and foreign women. Here foreigners, with the exception of the Portuguese, contribute very little to the increase of the population; they do not usually become permanent residents. Very different are the circumstances at Buenos Ayres. There marriages between natives and foreigners amount to 23 per cent, of natives with each other, only 15 per cent, and of foreigners with each other, about 6 per cent. In Rio de Janeiro marriages of Brazilians with each other amount to more than 50 per cent.

The city of Sao Paulo in this respect resembles Buenos Ayres more than Rio de Janeiro. In that city during the year 1895, for instance, stillbirths excluded, the number of births of children of foreign parents was 5,407, against 1,659 births of children of Brazilian parents; that is, 76.5 per cent against 23.5 per cent. In 806 marriages at least one of the contracting parties was a foreigner, and there were only 304 marriages in which the contracting parties were Brazilians, the proportion being consequently 65.7 per cent to 24.3 per cent.

Just as in the Argentine Republic, the Italian immigration has contributed to the amelioration of the Spanish blood, so it is also necessary that Brazil receive an infusion of foreign blood, which would exercise a beneficial influence in the development of the nation. The Portuguese blood is no longer sufficient to continue to promote the development of the Brazilian race. This is proved by the progress of Sao Paulo under the influence of Italian immigration. There the Italians have been acclimatized and have permanently settled.

Bills of health.

Since last report the following-named ships have been inspected and received bills of health from this office: April 13, schooner *Wm. T. Rosch*, American, for United States via Barbados. April 15, schooner *Cashier*, Russian, for Pensacola; bark *Amy*, American, for Baltimore. April 17, steamship *Livorno*, German, for New York; steamship *Caravellas*, French, for New Orleans. April 19, steamship *Coleridge*, British, for New York; steamship *Asiatic Prince*, British, for New York.

Respectfully, yours,

WM. HAVELBURG,

Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.

The SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

CHINA.

Shanghai quarantines against Hongkong.

CONSULATE-GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES,

Shanghai, China, April 18, 1899.

SIR: I beg to report that Shanghai has declared Hongkong infected by the plague, and has established an inspection and quarantine for vessels coming from that port.

The O. and O. S. S. *Gaelic* arriving to-day from Hongkong reports a Chinese passenger dead from the plague on board yesterday.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN GOODNOW,

Consul General, U. S. A., Hongkong.

The honorable the ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.